

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims preliminarily as follows:

1. (canceled)

1 2. (currently amended) Anchoring system according to claim ~~4~~10, characterized in that
2 ~~it is comprising six anchors with anchor line from each anchor up to the subsea buoy, arranged as~~
3 spread anchoring, with two clump weights on at least four of the anchor lines, such that during
4 ~~all loading or unloading will, for each anchor line with clump weights, one clump weight~~
5 ~~lie on the seabed while one clump weight is raised a short distance above the seabed.~~

1 3. (currently amended) Anchoring system according to claim ~~1 or 2~~9, characterized in
2 that the loading/unloading pipelines and the anchor lines are arranged from the subsea buoy to
3 the surface buoy and therefrom to the vessel.

1 4. (currently amended) Anchoring system according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~
2 claim 9, characterized in that the location of the subsea buoy between ~~the a lowest vertical~~
3 position and ~~a highest normal vertical~~ position while loading or unloading, ~~vertically is within~~
4 about 5 meters.

1 5. (currently amended) Anchoring system according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~
2 claim 6, further characterized in that the ballast of the subsea buoy is ~~ballastable by bringing~~
3 ~~in/out air or water~~, controlled from the surface via a cable or acoustic signals from the surface
4 buoy.

1 6. (currently amended) Anchoring system according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~
2 claim 9, characterized in that the surface buoy is ballastable by bringing in/out air or water.

1 7. (currently amended) Anchoring system according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~
2 claim 9, characterized in that the subsea buoy is located deeper than ~~the a~~ largest draught for
3 vessels that are to use the anchoring system.

1 8. (currently amended) Anchoring system according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~
2 claim 9, characterized in that ~~the a~~ maximum allowable variation in buoyancy for
3 loading/unloading pipelines is at least about 200000 kg.

1 9. (new) An anchoring system for holding a vessel during loading or unloading,
2 comprising:

3 a surface buoy;

4 an adjustably ballasted subsea buoy with swivel positioned at a subsea buoy depth at
5 which the subsea buoy can be raised to the surface by adjusting the ballasting;

6 a mooring line connecting the surface buoy and the subsea buoy;

7 at least one anchor secured in the sea floor;

8 for each anchor, a respective anchor line extending from the anchor to the subsea buoy
9 with slack sufficient to allow raising of the subsea buoy by adjusting the ballasting;

10 at least one vessel loading and unloading pipeline connected to the subsea buoy; and

11 at least one first clump weight attached to at least one of the anchor lines, each first
12 clump weight being positioned above the sea floor to provide a position-holding force at a
13 vertical height such that, upon buoyant failure of any device from the subsea buoy to the surface
14 buoy, including the surface buoy itself, the first clump weight will sink to the sea floor, the
15 vertical height being no greater than the subsea buoy depth;

16 whereby, for an arbitrary load in the pipeline, the subsea buoy can by ballast adjustment
17 be brought up to the surface and whereby the vessel can be connected or disconnected from the
18 anchoring system all operating conditions without adjustments in the anchoring system.

1 10. (new) An anchoring system as in claim 9, further comprising a second clump
2 weight on at least one of the anchor lines on which the first clump weight is attached, in which,
3 in a loading and unloading configuration, the second clump weight is positioned below the first
4 clump weight at most in close proximity to the sea floor.